

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. The actions taken herein place the Application in condition for allowance and Applicant
5 respectfully requests that they be entered. Claims 1-23 were originally filed. New claims 24-32 are added. No claims are cancelled. As a result, claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 12 and 19 are amended. This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the 8/16/04 Office Action.

10 Objections to the Specification

Paragraph [0001] of the specification has been amended as requested by the Office.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

15 §102

Claims 1-8, 10-14, 17, 19-21 stand rejected under §102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,441,593 to Baughman et al (hereinafter “Baughman”).

Claim 1 is amended and recites limitations which are not described or
20 taught by Baughman. Specifically, amended claim 1 recites “the slot having a central region and one or more terminal regions, the slot extending along a long axis that does not intersect the first surface or the second surface and that extends

through at least a portion of the central region and the one or more terminal regions”. This amendment does not incorporate new matter and is supported by the specification as originally filed. For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

5

Independent **claims 10, 12, 17 and 19** are also amended with limitations similar to those described in relation to claim 1 and Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

10 **Claims 2-8, 11, 13-14 and 21** depend from the above mentioned allowable independent claims and are similarly allowable.

§103

15 Claims 9, 16, 18, and 22 stand rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over Baughman US Patent No. 5,441,593 to Baughman et al (hereinafter “Baughman”) in view of Keefe et al US Patent No. 5,953,029 (hereinafter “Keefe”).

Claims 9, 16, 18, and 22 depend from the above mentioned allowable independent claims and are similarly allowable.


20

Conclusion

Claims 1-32 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee & Hayes, PLLC
421 W. Riverside Avenue, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

Dated: 11/5/04



Paul Mitchell
Reg. No. 44,453
Phone No. (509)324-9256